

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for the amendment to claims 7, 9, 11 and 12 is found in claim 19 as originally presented. Support for the amendment to claims 16 and 17 is found in claim 20 as originally presented. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment. No new issues would be raised before the examiner as applicants have merely rewritten an allowable dependent claim in independent form. Entry of applicants' amendment and full consideration thereof at this stage of prosecution is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, 11-12 and 15-18 will now be active in this application.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The claimed invention is directed to a water-based ink.

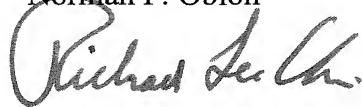
Applicants also wish to thank examiner Shosho for allowing claims 1-3, 5, 15 and 18 and for indicating that claims 19 and 20 would be allowable. Applicants have now rewritten claims 7, 9 and 11-12 to include all of the limitation of allowable claim 19 and rewritten claims 16 and 17 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 20.

The rejections of claims 7, 9, 11, 12, 16 and 17 are believed to be moot in view of applicants' amendments. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 7, 9, 11, 12, 16 and 17 in one or more continuation applications.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Richard L. Chinn, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,305

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
RLC/rac